



MICHAEL P. STUPINSKI  
First Selectman

# TOWN OF ELLINGTON

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NANCY O. WAY  
Deputy First Selectman  
PETER J. CHARTER  
DENNIS W. FRAWLEY  
ANN L. HARFORD  
A. LEO MILLER, JR.  
JAMES M. PRICHARD

## WARNING

### NOTICE OF SUBSEQUENT ANNUAL TOWN BUDGET MEETING TOWN OF ELLINGTON MAY 24, 2006

As the Annual Town Budget was defeated at referendum held on May 17, 2006, electors and citizens qualified to vote in Town Meetings are hereby notified that a subsequent Annual Town Budget Meeting of the Town of Ellington will be held on Wednesday, May 24, 2006 at 8:00 p.m. prevailing time at the Ellington High School, 37 Maple Street, for the following purpose:

To consider and appropriate upon the recommendation of and as allocated by the Board of Finance the total sum for all expenditures, a/k/a budget grand total, for the fiscal year 2006-2007 the sum of \$ (such sum as recommended by the Board of Finance).

Dated at Ellington, Connecticut, this 18<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2006.

PER TOWN CHARTER  
SECTION 1006

Michael P. Stupinski  
First Selectman

MINUTES  
SUBSEQUENT ANNUAL TOWN BUDGET MEETING  
TOWN OF ELLINGTON  
May 24, 2006

REVISED 6/5/2006

First Selectman Michael Stupinski called the meeting to order at 8:05 p.m. Mr. Stupinski then asked for nominations for a Moderator.

Mr. **Allan Lawrence** nominated **Attorney Atherton B. Ryan** as moderator seconded by **Robert Clements**.

Mr. **A. Leo Miller** made the motion to close nominations for moderator. Motion seconded by Mr. **Robert Pagani**. Vote by voice. Motion carried.

The Moderator then read the warning for the meeting, a copy of which is included preceding these minutes.

Attorney Ryan asked for a motion to approve the budget as recommended by the Board of Finance in the amount of **\$39,571,991.00**. A motion was made by Mr. **Robert Pagani** to approve the budget amount. Motion seconded by Mr. **Robert Clements**.

Mr. **A. Leo Miller** made a subordinate motion to send this budget to a referendum Wednesday May 31, 2006 at Ellington High School between the hours of 6:00 am and 8:00 pm. Seconded by **Nora Willis**.

Discussion began.

Mr. Miller feels that the voters will be disenfranchised if we take away the chance to vote at referendum.

Bruce Fader disagrees with Mr. Miller stating that this meeting was published and more people should be interested in the Town Meeting process. Mr. Fader feels that the voters are not disenfranchised if the budget is voted on tonight.

At this time several residents spoke in favor and against sending the vote to referendum.

The question was asked whether or not the budget amount could be changed at Town Meeting. The amount of the budget could only be amended to further decrease but not increase or add back any line items that were presented by the Board of Finance. The Town Meeting only has the power to approve the budget as presented or reduce the bottom line.

A motion was made by **Michael Stupinski** to close the debate. The motion was seconded by **Robert Clements**.

Vote to close off debate could not be determined by voice count. Mr. Ryan then appointed two counters and asked for those in favor to stand and then asked those opposed to stand.

**64 persons in favor of closing the debate. 23 persons opposed to closing the debate.** Motion to close debate so carried.

Mr. Ryan then asked for a vote on Mr. Miller's original motion to send the vote on the budget to a referendum. **43 persons voted to send the Budget to a referendum. 45 persons voted against sending the budget to referendum. Motion to send budget to referendum defeated.**

Mr. Pagani then went on to discuss the actual budget explaining what cuts had been made at the budget deliberations meeting last night.

Mr. Pagani then said it was his intention to resign as Chairman of the Board of Finance tomorrow.

A motion was made by **Maria King** to reconsider the motion to send the budget to referendum. Motion seconded by **Bruce Fader**.

Discussion began.

Several people said that it should be made clear that the budget could be voted on at the Town Meeting and does not necessarily have to go to a referendum. Many residents agreed that voting tonight would not be fair to all residents.

Many residents spoke on the budget voting process. Mr. Ryan explained that nothing illegal would occur should the vote be taken tonight.

Mr. Feldman said that it is very disappointing to have such a low turnout at referendums. He encourages better voter turnout to prevent the possibility of voting on the budget at the Town Meeting which is what could have happened tonight.

A motion was made by Mr. **William Harford** to move the question to reconsider voting by referendum close debate. The motion was seconded by Mr. **Lawrence Walbridge**. Motion carried.

Mr. Ryan called for a vote on the main motion by Mr. Miller to vote at a referendum. Motion carried.


Mr. Ryan then asked if there were further questions on the budget.

Beverly Russo was concerned that the mill rate was still too high and asked about the revaluation process. She felt it was not accurate. Mr. Miller stated that the tax rate is fair. Mr. Miller has reservations as to the accuracy of the revaluation process. Mr. Stupinski said that he felt VisionAppraisal did an excellent job with the recent revaluation process. The most recent sales are being tracked by the Assessors office and have been very precise compared to the appraised value.

Deanna Piotrowski commended the Board of Finance for the job they did on the budget.

Lee Curry asked for some clarifications on the budget. She stated that she also hoped Mr. Pagani would reconsider resigning as chairman of the Board of Finance as he has had so many years experience in town government.

A motion was made by **Anthony Littizzio** to adjourn the Town Meeting at 10:05 p.m. Motion seconded by **Yale Cantor**. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted:  Diane H. McKeegan, Asst. Town Clerk  
Received for record: May 30, 2006

Revision received: 6/5/06 @ 6:00 p.m.

@ 8:30 a.m.